

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 311. Vol. XII.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd, 1917.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 1d.

GILLET & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLET & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1917.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,

Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

THE REASON WHY.

Ever since the war began the troubles of those connected with the publication of newspapers have been increasing, the growing shortage of shipping tonnage having led to the drastic cutting down, from time to time, of the raw material for the manufacture of paper, with a consequent heavy rise in price. Hitherto, so far as the "Ringing World" is concerned, we have met the diminishing paper supply by reducing the number of pages. It was a step as distasteful to ourselves as it must have been to our readers, but it was a matter in which, like many others, there was no choice. But the cutting down of the size by no means counterbalanced the increased cost, for, as Lord Burnham, the proprietor of one of the greatest British daily journals said on Saturday, no other industry has experienced such a rise in the price of its raw material as the paper trade. Up to the present we have borne the additional cost involved. The latest pronouncement of the Prime Minister, further curtailing supplies by one-half of the present amount, makes the position of newspapers, however, more serious still; and if the ringing Exercise is to continue to have a paper to represent its interests and to maintain its cohesion, we must now, reluctant as we feel to do so, ask our readers to share with us the further extra cost which is inevitably before us. The Exercise is in the exceptional position of having only one journal devoted to its work, and we do not think any argument is necessary to show that the maintenance of a paper in the interests of the Art is absolutely vital to the future of ringing. Without a paper, through which individuals and associations can keep in touch with one another, there would be, as one prominent gentleman in the Exercise recently wrote to us, "campanological chaos." It is not only the immediate present that would be affected, but the future would have to be built up on a foundation of confusion arising from the lack of means of intercommunication. The position of the Exercise would be thrown back a generation by the absence of a weekly paper to maintain its interests, and all those who desire to see ringing restored when the war is over, will, we feel sure, be glad to have their share in maintaining the one journal which stands between the Exercise and complete disorganisation.

Commencing with next week, therefore, the charge for the "Ringing World" will be two-pence, but the increase, it should be understood, will be continued only as long as present conditions make it absolutely essential. No one will rejoice more than we shall when we can return to the original price and the original size, and our readers may rest

(Continued on Page 66.)

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCH WARDENS unite with me in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield

Messrs C. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract,—we may be able to assist you.

**SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM**

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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STEEL OR IRON.

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REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

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and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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assured that it will be done at the earliest possible moment. In the meantime we believe that ringers as a whole will continue loyally to support us through these difficult times, and so enable us, when peace comes, and ringing returns to a more normal condition, to render that service to the Exercise which has been our never-failing aim.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 17, 1917, in Three Hours and Twenty-three Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ... Treble	ARTHUR KEEBLE ... 5
CHARLES H. POULSON ... 2	ARTHUR SYMONDS ... 6
HARRY SMITH ... 3	LOUIS LEES ... 7
*WALTER HEAD ... 4	*THEODORE E. SLATER ... Tenor

Composed by W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM, and
Conducted by S. H. SYMONDS.

* First peal of Bob Major. Rung as a birthday compliment to Lance-Corpl. Thos. Pryke, of the 3rd Suffolk Regt. Messrs. Head, Keeble and Slater hail from Little Walding, Monks Elcigh, and Glemsford respectively.

WOOLWICH, S.E.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 17, 1917, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' ONE-PART. Tenor 13 cwt.

HENRY SPRINGALL ... Treble	HARRY R. PASSMORE ... 5
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	C. W. ROBERT GRIMWOOD ... 6
WILLIAM J. ALDRIDGE ... 3	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL ... 7
CHALLIS F. WINNEY ... 4	REUBEN SANDERS ... Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. William Banister. Mrs. and Mr. Anderson, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. Banister, with the Rector and others, were attentive listeners to the peal. The band afterwards accepted with thanks the kind hospitality of Mr. Aldridge who provided tea.

HORBURY, YORKS.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 18, 1917, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANCES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

JAMES WOFFENDEN ... Treble	GEORGE BARSTOW ... 5
*GEORGE HILL ... 2	HERBERT ROWLEY ... 6
GEORGE F. PICKLES ... 3	JAMES SMITH ... 7
GEORGE HUNT ... 4	ROBERT THICKETT ... Tenor

Composed by F. ROBINSON, and
Conducted by H. ROWLEY.

Rung on the 100th anniversary and in honour of a peal of Treble Bob Minor, 10,080 changes (being 14 Minor extents), in five hours and fifty-eight minutes, as recorded on a tablet in the belfry.

* First peal of Major.

HORNCHURCH, ESSEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

AND THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 24, 1917, in Three Hours and Six Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 19½ cwt.

WILLIAM PYE ... Treble	GEORGE R. PYE ... 5
LEONARD A. PYE ... 2	STAFF-SERGT. A. PYE ... 6
ISAAC G. SHADE ... 3	REUBEN SANDERS ... 7
ERNEST S. BUTLER ... 4	JOHN DALE ... Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect to the late A. W. Grimes and T. Loosemore, both of whom were much respected members of the above associations.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

E. BERKS AND S. BUCKS BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks Branch of that strong body of Church workers, the Oxford Diocesan Guild, which totals nearly 2,000 men, spread over the counties of Berks, Bucks and Oxon, was held at Great Marlow, on Saturday week the previous visit to this Thames-side town having taken place in 1911. Proceedings began with evening service in the Parish Church at 5 p.m., conducted by the Rev. F. O. Spearing, M.A., who arrived in the town only the previous day to take up his duties in succession to the late Vicar. He was assisted by the Rev. Michael Graves, R.D., the Rev. G. Clark (Curate of Marlow), and the Rev. J. Frazer-Amies (of Chalfont St. Peter).

An excellent sermon was delivered by the Vicar of Burnham, the Rev. P. P. N. Nott, M.A., who took for his text Ephesians vi. 13, many of his technical allusions being most appropriate to the calling of the change ringer. Dr. Bath, F.R.C.O., presided at the organ, and there was a good muster of choir boys. Two of the hymns were ringers' favourites, "O God, our help," and "Hark, hark, my soul," and a hearty service was enjoyed. If the gathering was smaller than usual in the past, it only served to emphasise the fact that the men of the belfry are patriotically doing their bit; indeed the bell ringers of Great Britain lay claim to unflinching devotion and loyalty to Church and State for more than three centuries.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED.

The business meeting was afterwards held in the Girls' School, in St. Peter's Street, by kind permission of the managers, at which the Rural Dean presided, the following parishes being represented: Bray, Braywood, Burnham, Woodburn, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, West Wycombe, High Wycombe, Fulmer, Iwer, Farnham Royal, Slough, Henley-on-Thames, and Cookham. Apologies for absence were sent by the chairman of the branch, owing to illness; the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis (hon. treasurer), Lieut. A. E. Reeves, R.D.C. (general secretary of the Guild, who was absent), the Rev. J. C. W. Herschel, Mr. Alfred H. Cocks, Mr. R. Holloway, and others.

Canon A. H. Drummond was re-elected chairman for the 36th time, and Canon P. H. Eliot, R.D., Slough, was unanimously appointed to the office of vice-chairman. The branch representatives serving on the General Guild Committee: Messrs. Alder (Burnham), Buckland (Beaconsfield), Martin (Maidenhead), Evans (Hughenden), Leader (Slough), Truss (Marlow), Welling (Old Windsor), and White (Wycombe), and the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. W. H. Fussell, Slough, were all re-elected, on the proposition of Mr. F. Boraham, seconded by Mr. Henley. It will be seen that the committee form a peal ringing octave in themselves, capable of scoring a 5,000 in either of the standard methods. The election of the Rev. S. T. Bridges (Fulmer), the Rev. Dr. A. W. Batchelor (Cookham), and the Rev. Michael Graves (Marlow), was ratified, and a reference to the lady band of ringers at the former tower was applauded, whilst hopes were expressed that more of the gentry and clergymen of the various parishes would come forward to aid the church ringers in a most worthy cause, especially so if the "bells of peace" are to ring out when in due course the nation celebrates that victory which we are now all working for.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP.

The hon. secretary's report showed the same number of towers in union as last year (28); the total membership was 335, made up of life members 8, honorary 26, change ringing 197, unattached 12, non-resident 57, and not yet reported 35. He trusted that the committee would strive during the next year to get six more parishes to come into union with them, and thus place the branch in the premier position for the whole Diocese. The committee was very glad, in these hard war times, to welcome with thanks the return of several old subscribers who had increased the honorary ranks by ten, and the receipt of the arrears of one or two well-known unattached members' fees. Five secretaries in four years was not conducive to the success of the branch—one having given his services as chaplain in H.M. Forces and his successor joined the Royal Engineers. The committee decided, in support of the scheme of National Food Control, to abandon the high tea usually given to the members at this annual assembly; the few remaining ringers also preferred to save up the small balance of funds in hand, so as to be able to feast their comrades when they come home from the war. The Guild's roll of honour gives a list of 71 names of men serving in H.M. Forces from this branch alone. On the outbreak of war the more expert members throughout the Diocese spontaneously gave up their attempts for intricate "joy peals" on occasions of State and festival, but, during the year 1915, five unique performances were brought round successfully with the bells solemnly muffled in each case, viz.: High Wycombe (2), conducted by Mr. F. Hayes; Hillingdon, conducted by Mr. Hancock; Beaconsfield, conducted by Mr. J. J. Parker; and Woodburn, conducted by Mr. W. Welling. One gentleman at Wycombe had most generously promised to erect a permanent record in the former tower in commemoration of the twelve-bell peal rung there. These muffled requiems were particularly organised "in memoriam" for the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the county who had fallen in the war, the sad list including the three sons of the Bishop of Bucks and six change ringing members of the branch killed in action.

GUILD MATTERS.

The treasurer's statement showed a balance in hand of £7 15s. 3d., out of a total income of only £20 12s., the greater half of which had been forwarded to the general Guild treasury. He desired to build up a better balance to meet future needs, for the tuition of young hands, restorations of bells and belfries, etc. The nation's joy in victory could only be fully rendered by the iron tongues of the loud cymbals that speak out from those ancient peace abiding towers, dotted across the British Isles.

Under the heading of any other business several matters concerning the future welfare of the Guild were discussed, such as an alteration in the proportion of branch funds remitted to the general Guild, or a grant in aid from the Bishop of Oxford's Diocesan Fund. Revision of the present mode of employing and paying for instruction to local companies, and economy in the publication of the annual reports. It was agreed that any change should be well considered by the committee, but not to be taken up till after the war.

The Chairman expressed his regret at being unable to give them a suitable address as part of the agenda for the meeting. He wished the branch prosperity, and happier times with many joy peals, as soon as we had won the war, and trusted that the president would be spared to the branch for some years to come (applause).

The presentation of a tea set then took place to Mr. Wm. Welling upon his recent marriage—consisting of a tea pot, milk jug, and sugar bowl, in nickel silver—in recognition of his useful help at many towers in the branch. The chairman handed the present to Mrs. Welling (who was supported by four lady ringing members), her husband being denied "leave" to come home for the purpose; and in doing so he read the inscription engraved on the tea pot, and a list of 32 subscribers, headed by Canon Drummond and the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Master of the Guild, whose names were suitably framed and accompanied the gift.

THANKS.

On the motion of Mr. Leader, seconded by Mr. J. Evans, a vote of thanks was accorded to those who had so willingly helped to make the assembly possible, viz., the Vicar and Curate of Marlow, the Rural Dean, the organist and choir boys, the steeplekeeper (Mr. H. Collins), and the school authorities.—Mr. L. W. Copsey proposed, and Mr. G. Martin seconded, a similar vote to the Rev. Percy Nott for his address, and to the Rev. M. Graves for taking the chair. Both were passed with enthusiasm, and the meeting closed with a prayer by the latter gentleman.

During the afternoon several musical "touches" were rung by mixed hands of ringers, who enjoyed the privilege of a little practice in Stedman, Grandsire, Double Norwich and Superlative, and among these were the Misses Cooper, Gudgeon and Fuller, and Messrs. Horne, Gutteridge, Stilwell, Smith, Alder, Hooper, Flaxman, Davis, L. E. Collins, P. Evans, Mitchell, Austin, J. C. Truss, Hoing, Twitchen, and Johnson, in addition to those previously mentioned.

A Marlow visit would never be considered complete by any ringers, who had once made the acquaintance of one of the three generations of the Truss family at the Two Brewers Inn, without a visit to this hostelry, and here handbells and refreshments passed the hour speedily before time for train was called; the surprise of the evening being the arrival of Pte C. Green, after fighting experience in Egypt, kit bag and all, home for 18 days' furlough from Stockport. Secretarial correspondence shows that certain members who were recently with us are now well in training: Welling at Plymouth, Cropley at Blackpool, Elburn at Chatham, Jones at Sandwich, Wingrove at Bristol, Buckland at Vendome. In this way our branch still continues to bear its share of war demands for men, money, and munitions, and with pride we may add that it can still do a little more for our King and country.

W. H. F.

DEATH OF MR. THOMAS TAYLOR.

AN OCTOGENARIAN RINGER.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Thomas Taylor, of Forest Hill, in his 80th year. He was exceedingly regular in his attendance at ringing for Sunday services, both morning and evening, at St. Mary's, Lewisham, up to the end of September last, although he lived at Forest Hill, some distance away. He has been a ringer practically all his life, having first learnt to handle a rope at his native village of Wilby, Suffolk, where there is a peal of six bells, and was a member of the original Trinity Youths. He rang about 120 peals altogether, his favourite method being Treble Bob. The deceased was well known in and about London, and was respected by all who knew him, for he was always genial and bright in disposition. He passed away on February 12th, and was buried at Ladywell Cemetery on February 16th.

The Lewisham band intended to ring a muffled quarter-peal on the latter day, but could not do so, as they met one short and the ringing, therefore, took place on the following Sunday morning, the band standing as follows: G. R. Simmonds 1, C. H. Walker 2, E. J. Pannett 3, E. B. Crowder 4, W. W. Fox 5, H. Warnett junr. 6, H. Warnett, senr. (conductor), 7, H. G. Goodwin 8. In the evening a muffled quarter was attempted at St. John's, Deptford, but failed after half an hour's ringing: R. Forsdyke 1, E. J. Pannett 2, G. R. Simmonds 3, J. Law 4, A. J. Bennington 5, C. H. Walker 6, W. J. Jeffries (conductor) 7, J. Crowder 8.

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Tenor Bell, 25½ cwt., of the new ring
of Ten at St. Peter's, Brighton.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED

For Rehanging, Retuning and Recasting.

Musical Handbells in sets, Bell Ropes, &c.

At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also.

OUR PRICE MUST GO UP.

The article on our front page explains why it has become necessary to increase the price of "The Ringing World" to 2d.

SHORT COURSE PARS.

Sapper C. T. Coles, hon. secretary of the Middlesex Association, is now en route to Salonica.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild Committee have decided to abandon the annual festival this year. It was to have been held on Whit-Monday.

A paragraph went the rounds of the papers last week, saying that at Dorking, Surrey, all the ringers had joined the army, and that the bells were now rung by ladies. This was not quite the truth. There are still a few men left over military age, and the Vicar has appealed for ladies to fill what gaps there are.

Rifleman Bertram Prewett, so well known throughout the Exercise, has recently crossed the Channel, and is helping with the strafing of the Huns.

A good many papers noted the death of Mr. William Banister, described as the oldest bell ringer in the country. We have no doubt that Mr. Banister had been a ringer longer than any other living man, but Mr. John Heathorn, of Guildford, is a few weeks older than Mr. Banister. He was 93 in January, and rang in a touch of Grandsire on his 90th birthday.

In answer to many inquiries, the Editor of "The Ringing World" has been granted a further three months' exemption from military service.

Not many ringers compose and conduct their first quarter-peal, but this Pte Parrot, of Winchester, did, while billeted at Tiverton, Devon, the other day.

Service ringers at Gillingham are asked to help maintain service ringing at St. Mary's, Gillingham, each Sunday at 5.15 p.m., commencing on Sunday, next.

The one-time inseparables—F. A. Holden (now sergeant, R.M.L.I.) and A. H. Wigh (Leatherhead)—met for a few hours last week, the latter travelling 50 miles to meet his friend, who has been absent from England since war began, and before he himself joined the forces. With Clement Glenn and W. Haigh, touches in standard methods were rung on handbells.

The Winchester Guild Committee have officially recorded their thanks to Mr. C. Edwards, late of Farnham, for his valuable work on the Surrey and Hants border. The success of his spade work in extending ringing was only equalled by spade work in the soil.

"The bells of victory will soon be heard in England," said the Bishop of Barking the other day, "but God forbid that there shall be any revelry, for this is a solemn war."

WHAT OTHERS THINK.

MUSICAL REVIEWER'S OPINIONS ON RINGING.

"The Ringing World" was honoured by a lengthy notice in the February issue of "Musical Opinion and Music Trade Review." Naturally, the subject of bells generally, the history, the poetry and the music of bells, gives the writer a theme to enlarge upon, and his readers will find it treated in acceptable form. In regard to the paper itself, we quote the following, and duly make our obeisance:—

"In spite of poetical and practical outpourings in the past, it will probably be news to many that there is a recognised organ of the campanological craft in an established weekly publication entitled 'The Ringing World.' What a vista of overpowering suggestion is conjured up by so simple a phrase, though to some it may seem a trifle too emotional as a newspaper title just now! A copy of 'The Ringing World' came into my hands by chance the other day, and one could but marvel that in times like these it should solemnly continue to record the execution of Oxford bobs, grandsire triples, and Stedman changes. To be just, however, it should be added that it also includes stories of the martyrdom of many heroes from the belfry, those left behind being exclusively men of mature age, although not necessarily so aged as a certain Gloucestershire ringer now in his eighty-second year. . . . Strange prejudice exists in certain English cities, and especially in London at the present time, against bells and bell ringing. It is about time that religion began to reconsider the propriety of using instruments of torture in the twentieth century. That is the argument of the objectors; and, without entering into the controversy, it may be admitted that the practice of ringing church and chapel bells has been much abused in the past, and that in certain places it has become an intolerable nuisance. But the practice is ancient, and, if properly conducted, need not prove a source of annoyance to even the most 'nervy' sort of person. Then, on the other hand, there are those who believe that good bell ringing, especially change ringing, is the finest music that can be produced on this earth. 'Is it possible,' asks one of the greatest of churchmen, 'that that inexhaustible evolution and disposition of notes—so rich, yet so simple, so intricate, yet so regulated, so various, yet so majestic—should be a mere sound, which is gone and perishes?' We marvel and stand appalled at the moment, in the midst of unprecedented outrage and ruin, in 'The Ringing World.'"

RINGERS' SILVER WEDDING.

MR. AND MRS. WHITTINGTON, OF CRANLEIGH.

On Saturday, for the first time in ringing history, we imagine, husband and wife celebrated their silver wedding by both joining in an attempt for a tower bell peal. This occurred at Cranleigh, Surrey, where Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whittington, whose cycling visits to towers all over the country have made them well known, completed a quarter of a century of married life, and received the congratulations of many friends. A peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted in the afternoon at St. Nicholas Church by members of the Winchester Guild, but it unfortunately came to grief, after ringing about 1,500 changes in good form in 55 minutes. The band was: Percy H. Doick (Pulborough) 1, Mrs. R. Whittington (Cranleigh) 2, Alwyn Charman



MR. AND MRS. WHITTINGTON AND THEIR TANDEM.

(Cranleigh) 3, Robert W. Whittington (Cranleigh) 4, William Shepherd (Hersham) 5, Francis E. Dawe (Bramley), conductor, 6, William Charman (Cranleigh) 7, Thomas Worsfold (Cranleigh) 8. This was Mrs. Whittington's longest length with a working bell.

Afterwards touches of Grandsire, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob were rung, and the company then adjourned to the "Greyhound" to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Whittington, who kindly provided an excellent and substantial tea. The ringers were joined by several friends, and subsequently touches were rung on handbells.

Mr. F. E. Dawe voiced the good feelings of the assembled company towards Mr. and Mrs. Whittington, and thanked them for their kind hospitality. He expressed the hope that the next 25 years of their life would be as happy as they all knew the last 25 had been.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittington are still the only married couple to have taken part in a tower bell peal together, their first together having taken place at Cranleigh five years ago.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Pte B. W. York, of Rothwell, Northants, Northamptonshire Regiment, now at Chatham.

Spr. J. Mead, of Blechley, Bucks, R.O.D., R.E., now at Longmore.

From St. Peter's, Caversham:

Pte F. Pounds, 25th Bedfordshire Regiment, now at Darlington.
2nd Air-Mechanic A. D. Cullum, R.F.C., now at Lympne.

RINGING RESTRICTIONS RELAXED

IN ALDERSHOT COMMAND AREA.

Application was made to the competent Military Authority of the Aldershot Command for a modification of the restrictions as to ringing after dark, by Mr. G. Miles, of Camberley, hon. secretary of the York Town District of the Winchester Guild, and he has received a reply from the General Commanding-in-Chief, stating that "it has been decided to permit the ringing of church bells until 9 p.m. daily within the Aldershot Command."

The incumbents of the churches in the Aldershot Command have been notified, through the Rural Deans, of the modification of the regulations.

NO EXTENSION OF HOURS IN EASTERN COMMAND.

Mr. A. E. Austin, of Great Shelford, Cambridge, Acting General Secretary of the Ely Diocesan Association, recently wrote to the competent Military Authority for the area covered by the Ely Association to see if the hours for ringing could be extended, and the following is a copy of his reply:—

I am desired by the competent Military Authority No. 9 Area, Eastern Command, to refer to your letter of the 6th instant regarding the hours during which church bells, etc., may be rung, and to inform you that, after consultation with the Chief Constables of the areas with which he is concerned, and after careful consideration of the matter, he regrets that he cannot at present see his way clear to issue any general permission for bells to be rung at a later hour than that now permitted by 12 B of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, i.e., in the case of the areas in question, half an hour after sunset.

The competent Military Authority would observe that the purpose of the Regulation is to prevent the risk of any bells rung or chimed from guiding hostile aircraft, and it is essential that in the Eastern Counties, which in the nature of things are first reached by hostile aircraft, the prohibited hours shall commence at an earlier time than in counties situated at a greater distance from the East Coast. It has also been pointed out that if any extension of hours were granted considerable difficulty would arise in warning outlying villages of the approach of hostile aircraft and the competent Military Authority could in no circumstances grant extension, whether general or particular, unless assured that adequate warning could in all cases be given and immediately acted upon.

I am, however, to add that there seems small doubt that the Summer Time Act will again be brought into operation this year, and probably (though as to this there is no official information at this office) at the beginning of April. The Act will in effect extend the evening hours for bell ringing by one full hour, and eventually, during the last week in June, up to about 9.50 p.m. by the clock; and the competent Military Authority trusts that you will agree that, having regard to this fact, any extension of time will be not only inadvisable, but in large measure, unnecessary.

(Signed) F. P. WINTER, Captain.

Staff Captain, No. 9 District.

Warley, 13th February, 1917.

We should be glad to hear the result of similar applications in other military areas.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Wellingborough District of the Central Northants Association was held at Wollaston on Saturday week, and proved very successful, about 24 members being present from Irthlingborough, Wellingborough, Finedon, Earls Barton, Northampton, Doddington, Raunds, Castle Ashby, Sharnbrook, Higham Ferrers, Easington, and the local ringers.

The bells, a peal of six, were at liberty during the afternoon, and the methods rung were Woodbine and Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. A short service was held in the church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. D. C. McVarish). A splendid tea was served at the "Fountain."

The usual business meeting was afterwards held, presided over by Mr. F. Wilford (general secretary of the Association). Six new members were elected from Wollaston. It was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Finedon in August, and a special meeting at Castle Ashby in April.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to the local ringers for their kindly welcome. The handbells were then brought into use, and courses of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples were rung by Messrs. A. Martin, W. Perkins, C. Duffield, F. Wilford, and C. Mawby. Tune-playing by the Wollaston company brought a most successful meeting to a close.

MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE.

Congratulations will be extended to Capt. J. H. B. Hesse, of the Army Service Corps, vice-president of the Middlesex Association, on his promotion to the acting rank of Major. His address is now 4th M.T. Repair Depot, B.E.F., France. Major Hesse has recently been six weeks off duty, suffering from trench fever and jaundice, and has been convalescing at the Michelham Home for Convalescent British Officers, Cap Martin, Mentone.

DEATH OF THE REV. C. F. LANGFORD.

SALISBURY GUILD'S LOSS.

The Exercise in general, and the Salisbury Diocesan Guild in particular, are much poorer by the unexpected death of the Rev. Charles F. Langford, of Bradpole, Dorset, which sad event occurred on Tuesday of last week. So late as Wednesday, the 14th inst., he was present in the belfry, while on the following day he officiated at a funeral. That same evening, however, he took to his bed, and passed away as stated above. The cause of death was pneumonia, accompanied by rheumatic and heart trouble.

Possibly few outside West Dorset knew him as a ringer, for his career as such has been a short one, though during those few (all too few) brief years he proved himself a true ringers' friend.

Appointed to the living of Bradpole in March, 1909, he found in the church an indifferent peal of six bells in bad going order, with an equally indifferent band of ringers. At once he set about remedying matters, first tackling the bells. With such success did he prosecute this object that Easter, 1910, saw the opening of a musical peal of eight, with tenor 13 cwt. in F sharp. The work carried out consisted of recasting the old third and fourth, adding a new treble and tenor, and rehanging the whole in new fittings. This work cost upwards of £300.

Then he gave the old band twelve months in which to reform themselves, not wishing to appear too harsh, for he was a most gentle man in all things. This the band failed to do, so Easter, 1911, saw what might be termed a "big smash up." Still, out of the evil good arose. A new band was formed, of which he became an active member, and commenced to learn to handle a bell. Often has he encouraged a young ringer in his own tower, or when visiting other towers, by telling them that he first rang "rounds" after reaching his 50th year. 'Twas but a step from call changes to "Grandsire," and afterwards to "Plain Bob." Muscular rheumatism around the heart always checked his ardour, and so he never rang but one peal. But he dearly loved a "quarter," being especially fond of one with the twenty-four 6-7's. Never a Sunday went by but that he visited the belfry, and nine times out of ten took a rope.

The writer has known when he has taken five services (two of them a mile from the parish church), acted as his own organist—through illness of the regular one—preached three sermons and rang in two touches, 504 for morning, and 1,260 for evening service. No mean performance this for one day, and one which shows he never spared himself.

When the Sarum Guild was divided into smaller districts he was elected chairman of the West Dorset Branch, and has been re-elected annually since then. He regularly attended the meetings, and made an ideal president for the work.

More than once he had expressed a wish that if he died in Bradpole he should like to be buried just outside the belfry door. Unfortunately for the parish and ringers his wish had to be gratified all too soon. His grave was dug as near as it possibly could be to the belfry door.

The funeral took place on Friday last, when, beside a full muster of the local band, there were fellow ringers from Beaminster, Bridport, Netherbury, Whitechurch, Dorchester, Upwey, Wyke Regis, Bournemouth, and Reading. With the bells deeply muffled short touches were rung before the service. Those chosen to act as bearers were J. and T. Lathey (Bradpole), E. Hansford (Beaminster), T. Kenway (Bridport), H. Jennings (Wyke Regis), and Lieut. A. E. Reeves (Reading). The service, fully choral, was conducted by the Rev. W. J. Coulter, Rector of Bridport, and Rural Dean. More ringing took place after the service, the principal touch being the quarter-peal the Vicar always admired. This was well struck, in 49 minutes, by: Rev. C. A. Phillips 1, T. Horvey Beams (conductor) 2, T. Page 3, Mrs. Reeves 4, Lieut. A. E. Reeves 5, H. Jennings 6, T. Taylor 7, T. Lathey 8.

Thus has passed away one who, in a few short years, did so much for the ringing fraternity.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE MEETING AT SOUTH CROYDON.

A practice meeting of the Surrey Association was held at St. Peter's, South Croydon, on Saturday last, about thirty ringers attending from various parts of the county, and from London and Kent. During the afternoon the ringing included Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Double Norwich and London Surprise.

The ringers afterwards partook of a substantial tea thoughtfully provided by Mr. H. E. Wills, one of the local band, and to this ample justice was done.

A vote of condolence was passed with Mr. Charles Dena, of Croydon, formerly hon. secretary of the Association, on the death of his son in France, the sad news having been received on the previous day. The motion was proposed by Mr. I. Emery, seconded by Mr. Perkins, and passed in silence, the members all standing.

Various touches on handbells—Grandsire, Stedman Caters, Treble Bob, etc.—were brought round until 9 p.m., when a vote of thanks to Mr. Wills for his kindness and generosity, proposed by Mr. Hewett, and seconded by Mr. Brough, brought a very pleasant and successful day to a close.

NOTICES.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Yorktown District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Yorktown on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea at the York Restaurant, Frimley Road, at 5.30. All ringing friends welcome.—G. Miles, Hon. Sec., Owlsmoor, Camberley.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Harlow, St. Mary's, on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available only from 4 to 6 p.m. Business meeting will be held at the Church Room at 6.15 p.m. Subscriptions for 1917 are now due.—William Watts, District Sec., Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD (North Bucks Branch).—The quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Hanslope on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells (6) available from 2 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m., tea and meeting to follow.—L. Sear, Branch Sec., 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Goole on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells available all day. Tea at 5 p.m.—Thos. Smith, Honorary District Secretary.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday, March 3rd. Bells (12) available from 3.30 p.m. till dusk; business meeting to follow in Wolstenholme Hall. Subscriptions are now due. A good attendance is desired.—Leonard Brightman, Dist. Sec., *pro tem.*, 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—Ringing at St. Mary's on Saturday, March 3rd, at 5 p.m., and every first Saturday in the month. Sunday evening ringing has also been resumed. All ringers welcome.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1537).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on March 8th and 22nd, for handbell practice, and on the 13th and 27th for general business.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 37, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Nominations for the election of officers and one representative for the Central Council, to be elected at the annual meeting, should reach me by March 9th, in accordance with Rules 7 and 13.—W. E. White, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service in church at 4.30, which will be conducted by the President, the Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland (Vicar); business meeting afterwards. A free tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than March 6th. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this Society will be held at Chesterfield on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (10) available from 3 o'clock until dusk.—Sam Thomas, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 19, Stanhope Road, Sheffield.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Whitefield on Saturday, March 10th. Bells available from 3.30 till dusk, meeting to follow.—W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society.—Est. 1824).—The next meeting will be held at St. Ann's, Swains Lane, Highgate, N., on Saturday, March 10th. Tower open from 3.45 to 7.45 p.m. Business meeting to follow at the Bull and Last, Highgate Road. Ringers and friends are welcome.—T. Walker, Hon. Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The annual meeting of the above will be held at Hunslet, on Saturday, March 10th. Bells (8) available 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.; business meeting to follow in Parish Room adjoining Church.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. Dist. Sec.

HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Bushey Parish Church on Saturday, March 10th. Bells at 2—9 p.m. Tea free in the Institute at 5. Meeting to follow. P.C. will oblige us.—F. Edward, 24, Glencoe Road, Bushey; F. A. Smith, 67, Upper Paddock Road, Oxley, Watford, Branch Secs. *pro tem.*

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—Spring meeting will be held at Sturry on Saturday, March 17th. Bells available for ringing. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting after at the Swan Inn. A member will be elected at this meeting to serve on a sub-committee to consider the question of a memorial to all those who have fallen in the war and who have served in H.M. forces. Tea, about 1/- each, for those who send their names to me by Monday, March 12th.—The Rev. C. W. B. Cobbe, Hon. Dist. Sec., Elmsted Vicarage, Ashford, Kent.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, March 17th. Full particulars next week.—E. J. Butter.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Chew Deanery Branch took place at Portishead, but, for various reasons, was poorly attended, members attending from Clapton, Long Ashton, Portishead, Yatton, and Bristol. The ringing included a well-struck 504 of Grandsire Triples. At the service a most able address was given by the Rev. E. Robertson.

Tea was provided at The Cafe, High Street, and was followed by the business meeting, presided over by the Rev. E. Robertson.—One honorary and five performing members were elected, including three lady members from Wraxall.

Mr. T. Wyatt was re-elected chairman, and Mr. George Yeo hon. secretary and treasurer for the ensuing year. Yatton was chosen for the place of the next quarterly meeting.

Feeling reference was made to the loss the association had sustained in the death of the late Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower, who for so many years took such a lively interest in the welfare of the association, and especially the Chew Deanery, to which for several years his valued services were given as hon. local secretary and treasurer.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rector of Portishead for the use of the bells, to the Rev. E. Robertson for giving the address and presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

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Guildford, and Published by Messrs. Wm. Dawson & Sons
LTD., Cannon House, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C.